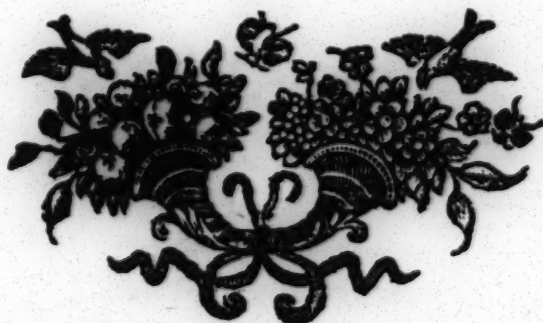


THE
Triumphant Christian:
OR,
FAITH'S Victory
OVER
DEATH and the GRAVE.

Exemplified in the
Last Experiences and Dying Words
of a Private GENTLEMAN.

The FOURTH EDITION.



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73...2002

Sarah Kennett

T H E

Triumphant Christian.

AS the end of publishing the following narrative, is rather for the good of those that read, than to raise a reputation for the deceas'd, or his surviving relations, none of which stand in need of any such methods to inhance their worth; we shall, as we have been desired, altogether conceal the name, family, and place of abode of our dear departed friend; whose dying behaviour is the subject of these sheets. The world may be assured the relation is true; and that it is almost word for word the same that was delivered by the gentleman himself: The glory of God, and the good of his people, were the great designs he ever had in view; and it would be acting unfaithfully by him, if in this work, which so nearly concerns himself, we should not entirely pursue the same intentions; therefore to God's honour, and the advantage of

B

souls,



souls, 'tis entirely devoted : may it effectually produce both.

All then that's necessary to be said of this good man, is, that he was born a gentleman of very valuable religious parents, dissenting from the established church, as he did himself to the last. He was an only child, and heir to twelve hundred pounds a year; which he has now left, with some small additions, to a son and two daughters, the possessors of his fortune and virtues; his lady, an exemplary pious christian, died some years before him : he had had a very liberal education; was some time at an university in Holland, after which he travelled for about two years; then returning to England, he married, and settled in a seat of his own, near a large town about fifty miles from London; where he lived five and thirty years without removing, unless for a few days, 'till he chang'd that situation for the silent grave : he was a man of great knowledge, and large experience in religion, and had fine natural parts : His disposition and deportment were sweet and engaging, his person comely, his conversation always wise, instructive, and agreeable : He was humble, and courteous, kind to all, most charitable to the poor, especially the industrious poor; and many a family has he saved by his private assistance from destruction, which would otherwise have been torn to pieces and ruin'd :

ruin'd: his house was a little sanctuary, a place where God dwelt, or a society, as it might more properly be called, which God bless'd, and in which he was lov'd, obeyed, and constantly worshipp'd; a sweet agreement, peace, and good-will reigned among them; they were all pious without enthusiasm, and serious without affectation; beloved and highly esteemed by all their acquaintance, of what different persuasion in religion soever; and no man could leave this world more universally lamented, among all that had any knowledge of him, than the deceased; he departed about three months ago, * in the fifty-ninth year of his age, after a life spent with God, and for the good of mankind, in religion and kind offices.

After what has been said, we need make no further apology for this publication; we doubt not, but by the divine assistance, it may be of great advantage to many a serious soul, both in life and at death: but to back our thoughts with the approbation of a great, and good man, allow us to quote his opinion in the case, in his own words: 'The truth of it is, says he, there is nothing in history which is so improving to the reader, as those accounts which we meet with, of the deaths of eminent persons, and of their behaviour in that dreadful season. I may also

* He died September the 5th, 1725.

' also add, that there are no parts in his-
 ' tory, which affect and please the reader
 ' in so sensible a manner. The reason I
 ' take to be this; because there is no one
 ' single circumstance in the story of any
 ' person, which can possibly be the case
 ' of every one who reads it. A battle, or
 ' a triumph, are conjunctures in which
 ' not one man in a million is likely to be
 ' engaged; but when we see a person at the
 ' point of death, we cannot forbear being
 ' attentive to every thing he says or does;
 ' because we are sure that some time or
 ' other we shall ourselves be in the same
 ' melancholy circumstances. The gene-
 ' ral, the statesman, or the philosopher,
 ' are perhaps characters which we may
 ' never act in; but the dying man is one,
 ' whom sooner or later we shall certainly
 ' resemble.

The reader is desired to carry in his
 thoughts as he goes on, that here is only
 what was spoken by the dying man; and
 that as they are almost his own words,
 so they are set down in almost the same or-
 der he delivered them.

His death was by a consumption, that
 for three or four years, by a gradual slow
 progress, had reduced and wasted him:
 the last year he weather'd the distemper,
 by

by the divine blessing, upon applications for his support, to the amazement of all that saw him; he preserv'd an alacrity of mind, uncommon in such cases, to the last; never was known to fail in the duties of his family, or abate the usual conversation with his friends; till, at length, the natural moisture being dried away, and the vital heat exhausted, the lamp of life went out at once, like the flame from an expiring taper.

On Saturday noon, the day before he died, he was sensible of a very great alteration in himself: this shock alarmed the family, but not him; at their request, but against his own inclination, physicians were immediately sent for, and almost as soon dismiss'd; they only confirm'd the opinion that he himself had, and indeed all his friends, that it was impossible for them to be of any service to him, or he to recover: nature was past help; he was now to look for a discharge of it; which happened in a few hours after: upon this, he sent for three friends, and his Family, into his chamber; where among all their tears and lamentations, with the utmost composure of mind, he spoke to them in the tender moving manner following.

My

and My dear children and friends, I send
 for you to take my last leave of you, to
 bid you, and all the world, farewell: I am
 going where I hope one day we shall have
 a joyful meeting; but I shall never return to
 you; the places and persons that have
 known me, must here know me no more:
 come now, my dear children, and kiss your
 dying father, or else you may lose an op-
 portunity for that last endearment: death
 is doing his work apace. Don't be so
 greatly mov'd; nothing but your tears can
 disquiet me: I have nothing now to do
 but to die: 'Tis a great work; O! to do
 it well! My worldly affairs are all settled;
 I won't spend a thought, I won't lose a
 moment about them; I have but a few,
 a very few, I am satisfied, to come; may
 they be well employ'd: You'll find in the
 disposal of my estate, how equally dear
 you are all to me, and how sensible I
 have been of the duty and affection you
 have each of you, through the whole
 course of your lives, ever paid me; may
 God requite you, in more valuable blef-
 sings, than any thing I am capable of
 leaving you. I have no need to add any
 instructions to those I have already given
 in the course of our conversation; and
 which you have both received, and hither-
 to practis'd; they are sufficient for your
 conduct, either to God or man; go on as
 you

you have hitherto done; remember the words of your living, as well as your dying father: may the peace of God be with you, the Almighty God of Jacob bless and keep you: may your father's God and your own God in covenant, be your present inheritance, and your everlasting portion: may your mutual happiness be continued, and your everlasting felicity be secured: may the glory of God be your chief, your great aim at all times; may whatever you speak, design, or perform, have a direct tendency thereto: may you prove a blessing to society in general, and instrumental of much good to the cause, and people of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Master.

My dear friends, among them, I would include you also, my dear children, who have for many years been my best friends and companions; you can't but see the earnings of bowels towards you; all the tenderness of my soul is mov'd; nothing of the world raises the least inclination in me to stay longer here; 'tis you only that I can't so easily part with; my affections are working towards you; and was it not that I am fully persuaded we shall meet again, the struggle would be hard, very hard; parting would be dreadful work indeed: but O! let me not indulge this
weakness

weakness any longer; I am going to our dear Lord and Master, the blessed Jesus, of whom I was just now a speaking; and 'tis with him I leave you; he'll soon infinitely more than make up to me the loss of children, and all that's dear to me here; and repair the loss of a father to you.

Here endeavouring to keep his tears, which several times gush'd out, and smother the commotions of his mind, which were raised by the tears and tenderness of his children and friends, he sunk down in the bed and fainted: they all thought he was gone; but in a few minutes he reviv'd, and they persuaded him to take a little cordial, and compose himself to rest; which he comply'd with, and slept, or rather slumber'd, about two hours; which a little enlivening his spirits, he thus began again:

Let me pray with you, my friends; it's likely to be the last time I shall ever do it; and indeed I thought a little while ago, that this opportunity would not have been allow'd me; I am just upon the brink of eternity, and I'm satisfied 'twill be but a few minutes, before I launch into that boundless ocean: I must lie in my bed in the posture I am in; for I am not now
able

able to kneel: Upon which, with the greatest calmness of spirit, and with his usual fluency he pray'd:

Most glorious, most holy Lord God: thou art infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, the only living and true God, possess'd of all possible excellence and perfection: thou dwellest in inaccessible light, to which, neither men nor angels can approach; thou, O Lord, art only necessarily self-existing, the supreme, independent Being; from whom we receive life, breath, and all things: thou art the high and lofty one, who inhabits eternity; before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst form'd the earth, or the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God: there are no vicissitudes, no changes, or the least shadow of turning with God; alterations, and death, are the lot and desert of mortal, or sinful beings: thou art the sovereign Lord of the universe; the God of nature, the God of grace; the great creator and possessor of heaven and earth, and all things therein: these O Lord, declare thy glory, and are undeniable testimonies of thine infinite wisdom, goodness, and power. Truly happy are they, and only they, who have an interest in thy favour; in that is life, and thy loving kindness is better than life: thou

art the only source of real happiness : afflictions, with thy favour, are infinitely before deliverance from the greatest distress, without it ; to have God for our portion, and be destitute of the common necessities of life, is beyond comparison more desirable than wealth, power, and honours ; than all the good and glory of the world without God : thy over-ruling providence disposes of all events, and of all persons : with the utmost awe and reverence, O Lord, we would approach thee ; duly sensible of the majesty and perfections of the great God ; and of the infinite distance there is between that Being, who is purity and perfection itself, and such defiled, guilty creatures as we are : O Lord, thou art above and beyond all possible blessing and praise ; the services of the most exalted created natures, are infinitely short of thee : 'tis condescension in God to regard the most perfect adorations, and obedience of the blessed above ; what wondrous goodness is it then, O Lord, for thee to have respect to those who dwell in houses of clay, and whose foundations are in the dust ? But our consolation is, that we have an all-prevailing intercessor with thee, *Christ Jesus* the righteous ; our most blessed mediator and advocate ; the Lord our righteousness, and strength ; thro' whom, unworthy, and without him undone creatures,

tures, may have access to, and be accepted by, their great Creator: the satisfaction Christ has made to the divine justice is compleat; he has died, the just for the unjust, to bring us unto God: he was once our submitting, suffering, crucified Saviour, he is now our exalted Lord and King; but still, as our propitiation, is pleading his own merit before the throne, in behalf of his church; and by that demands, as by it he ever deserves, whatever good in time, or eternity, his people can want, or enjoy: thro' him alone we would come before thee, O Lord. May this act of duty, be an act of communion with God; may what we offer come from God, and it shall then ascend to thee: let our hearts be influenced by thy most holy spirit: let our petitions be such as Christ may plead for above; and then we may be assured of the utmost success: I am now, O Lord, at thy footstool; I shall soon be at thy bar: O! be present with me in these last moments of nature's distress; I am almost at home; and I know, I shall most certainly be convey'd safe thither: O! make the passage easy, if it be thy will: now, O Lord, compleat thy work in me, thy goodness towards me; may I act this last part, thou hast allotted me, to advantage; may this be the happiest season that ever

I experienc'd: may I die to thy glory, in thy favour, to the great benefit of all that know, or may hear of me; an encouragement for them to choose that God for their portion, who, when his people stand most in need of his assistance, is then most ready to afford it: for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, fully pardon all my sins; pass by every failing of my life; freely forgive whatever has been contrary to thy most holy law and nature; every sin of omission or commission, of ignorance or presumption; whatever I stand chargeable with, by thy divine justice. Wash me in the blood of Christ from all defilement, either of original pollution, or actual transgression: now, O Lord, perform thy part of the covenant, with thy poor creature to the full: O! come, thou spirit of the most high, sanctify me throughout in body and soul; and give in that comfort, that peace, which thou, O Lord, alone can'st give; maintain it to the last, 'till the conflict's over, and death is swallowed up in victory: let no false fears alarm me, no false hopes deceive me; let not thy wrath, O Lord, terrify me; let not the great enemy of souls be suffered to buffet me; let not the remembrance of my past miscarriages overwhelm and sink me: O! let me know I am pardon'd, fully pardon'd, for the sake of my dear Redeemer:

Redeemer: grant me, O Lord, an assurance of thy love; let me have the best reason to depend upon it, the inward testimony of thy spirit witnessing with mine, that I am a child of God: may I have the many prayers I put up to thee, my God, in the time of my health, for a preparation for death, be answer'd in mercy to me now. If it be thy will, O Lord, preserve the powers and faculties of my mind in proper exercise to the last; that to my latest breath, and with it, I may bless and praise my God; declare my former experiences of thy faithfulness, power, and love; and give an undeniable testimony, that religion is more than a speculation, that 'tis a real principle in the soul; and then may death, O Lord, be an easy, happy transition to me, out of a world of sin, snares, and sorrow, to immortality, peace, happiness, and glory with God and Christ above: I would commit and commend my friends and family, that I must now part with, to the divine favour; may the blessing of Almighty God be constantly upon them; may, what Christ has purchas'd, and what thy covenant secures, be their portion now and for ever: guide them by thy counsel here, and afterwards receive them to thyself: hear and accept us, O Lord; answer in mercy this minute, the next may be too late,
for

for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake; in whom alone is our hope of mercy from thee; upon his account, do for each of us, as we now, or may hereafter stand in need of thy assistance; and according to what we may have the utmost reason to bless thee for in time, and thro' the endless ages of eternity: to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the one immortal, invisible, and only wise God, be uninterrupted honour and glory, adoration, blessing, and praise, world without end. Amen.

The length of his prayer, and the extraordinary vehemence and earnestness, with which he deliver'd it, which can hardly be conceiv'd of, but by those present, quite exhausted his spirits, and he was almost motionless, without speaking a word for about an hour; when the minister of the congregation he belonged to, being acquainted how ill he was, came to see him: this gentleman is a most grave, judicious christian; a man of learning, and worth, and has been in the ministry upwards of two and thirty years: as soon as our dear friend saw him, he reviv'd, and with a surprizing alacrity, said, Good sir, I am glad to see you, and to see you upon this occasion; you are just come in time, to do your last kind offices to your dying

dying friend; sit down, I hope by the divine assistance, you, as well as I, will have comfort in my end: I have a peace within too great to be express'd, I feel, I enjoy it; but no words can represent it: you'll find, sir, that your labours have not been in vain; I am one testimony to the contrary, blessed be God: thanks to you for that powerful preaching I have set under for many years; O! those heavenly discourses, those most prevailing prayers! thank you, sir, for that pious, that heavenly conversation, that both myself, and family, have so often been favour'd with: continue it, I beseech you, to them; they value it as much as I do, and may one day bless you for it upon a dying bed, as I do now: as for myself, I shall soon be beyond the reach of prayer, and above the use of ordinances, in the happy, the full possession of all they represent, or lead to.

Is it not amazing, sir? Don't you bless God with me, that such a vile sinner as I am, should be thus easy upon a death-bed? and that just going to appear before the great Judge of the world, such a worn-out, shrivel'd-up creature, who has hardly any remains of human nature, but a withered skin sticking close to dry bones, should be able to talk thus to those
about

about him? O! God has been ever good to me, I have experienc'd it in a thousand remarkable instances; and I find he will be so to the last: he is the God who has fed, and cloath'd, and comforted me all my life-time; by night and by day he has watch'd over me for good; in journeys and at rest taken care of me; in the day, the hour, the instant almost that I have cried, God has answer'd and sav'd me: when no arm but his own could bring me salvation, then that has done it to the full; I never yet call'd upon him in vain: O! living and dying, we should declare the loving kindness of the Lord.

Here the minister broke in upon him, and that he might not spend himself too much by talking, began a very suitable discourse, upon the happiness of believer's union to Christ; but he was aware of the design, and soon interrupted him. I thank you, good sir, says he, I heartily thank you for your kind intention, you are for having me spare myself, I find; O! no, no, the work I'm engag'd in, is purely personal, none can do it for me; indulge me therefore to go on, while I can speak, to bless my God, and give my dying testimony to what, as I said before you came in, I have found of his faithfulness, power,

power, and love : why have I so much strength of body and mind allow'd me, but to use it for his glory ? My speech may shortly fail me, and my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth ; O ! then bless God for me, and put up your prayers for my departing soul ; perhaps then I shall be able to hear, and understand you ; which if I do, I'll let you know, by laying my hand upon my heart.

Is it not the utmost condescension in the great God, (my friends) that he'll allow such a worm, as I am, to bless him at all ; or to take his most high and holy name into my polluted lips ? O ! the Lord is infinitely kind and plenteous in mercy : blessed, for ever blessed be God for all his dispensations towards me thro' the whole course of my life ; I consider them now together ; and find that the tendency of them all, has been for my best good, and God's glory ; O ! praised be the Lord, even for those adverse providencies, that once so much cross'd my inclinations, and thwarted my designs ; I am sensible now, that all was wisely and graciously order'd for my everlasting advantage : O ! God has indeed been my kindest, my best friend, my most bountiful benefactor, most faithful and kind ; he never broke his promises : he is ever mindful of his covenant : I have trusted

in him, and never was deceived in my God ; and I never shall be. God in Christ is my rock, the portion of my soul ; he is my present good, and will be my everlasting felicity ; O ! what should I now do without an interest in Christ ? O ! the precious blood of Christ ! 'Tis of infinite value ; I ever said, I thought it so ; but how do you think I esteem it now ? I am a dying, but not a perishing creature ; no, I know in whom I have believ'd ; in Jesus Christ my Lord and my God ; he is able, and will keep what I have committed to him ; he will conduct my soul safe to his heavenly kingdom ; thro' him I have overcome the world, conquer'd temptations ; and thro' him I shall soon be triumphant over death, and all the powers of darkness.

O ! my precious, my immortal soul ! thou art safe ; thy Redeemer is the Lord thy Maker ; he is an all-sufficient Saviour, and the eternal God ; to no less than God could I now trust thee, without uneasiness, without fear ; to him I most joyfully commit thee ; thou art an object of his love and care ; he will compleat the good work he has begun in thee, and for thee ; thy Redeemer's glory would else suffer an eclipse : shake off thy fetters then, my soul, and rejoice in Christ Jesus thy Lord ; hold
on

on thy course; keep thy ground, maintain thy hope but a few moments more, and thy work will be over, thy race run, and thou shalt enter upon thine heavenly inheritance; O! there shalt thou ever be with thy Lord; there, thy longings, thy breathings after thy God shall be satisfy'd: there, the closeness of thy union to God, and the intimacy of thy communion with him, shall compleat thy happiness: there shalt thou be an eternal witness to the integrity of thy Redeemer's promises; to his capacity to save, and to the rich free grace of God in Christ: O! there shall be no sorrow; and what is better, no sin; there shalt thou know and love, enjoy, and glorify thy God, in a manner thou art here incapable of; thy love shall indeed center in him; thou shalt be perfectly such as God will delight in: thou wilt then be under no fear of offending him; there will be no temptations to baseness, and ingratitude to thy best friend: no hazard any more of ruining thyself, or breaking in upon thy peace and happiness; but thro' the endless ages of eternity thou shalt be singing uninterrupted hallelujahs to thy God and Saviour; be ever paying the debt of gratitude; the least part of which thou canst never discharge; because the giving thee a power, in that happy manner

manner to acknowledge thy obligations, will ever encrease them.

I have just done, my friends, my strength fails me; I hope, however, to have that refreshment this night, which I'm persuaded will be the last amongst you, that may enable me to spend as much of the approaching sabbath, as shall be allowed me on earth, as my last sabbath; O! what a blessed change would it be, to go from keeping a sabbath with God's people on earth, to keep an eternal one with God himself in heaven!

Here he lay still about two hours, then thus of a sudden broke out: Am not I, (my friends) a monument of God's rich free grace, of his boundless love and mercy in Christ? There are many in the world, were they to see me, would be pitying my case; perhaps think me too ghastly to look upon, and rejoice they were not in my circumstances; O! but that would be, because they know not my inward comforts; they are strangers to the joys of my soul; I have perfect peace within; that peace which indeed none but God could give: O! I would not change conditions with the most wise, most wealthy, most great, most happy upon earth; was it possible I could be possess'd

possess'd of thousands of worlds, what would they avail me in this hour of death, how much less in that of approaching judgment? What should I do? Whither should I look? What would become of me, (as I said before) without an interest in Christ? O! none but Christ! none but Christ! no Saviour but him: O! most extensive is the efficacy of his precious blood! is it not, my brethren? For it has reach'd to me, one of the vilest of sinners: O! here is boundless goodness, unfathomable love! this blood has washed clean my soul, the seat of defilement, that was black as hell; purified my conscience that was darker than the grave, and made it brighter than the light; in a word, this blood will make me, who was vile, most vile, a child of hell, an heir of wrath, holy before God, and fit to live with God, and Christ, with angels, and the spirits of good men made perfect, to all eternity; and in a few minutes my soul shall be made perfect also: O! blessed, for ever blessed be God my Saviour, eternal praises be render'd to thee: may thy saints and angels for ever bless thee; O! my soul shall eternally bless thee: here he broke off, and desired the minister to perform the family-worship for him; which about an hour after he comply'd with in his chamber, in a manner most suitable to the

the dispensation the family was under; they all were bath'd in tears; he was still all joy and extasy, without the least symptom of uneasiness, but what their tenderness occasion'd: he was heartily thankful to the minister, embraced and kiss'd his children, and took leave of them and his friends, in so affectionate and moving a manner, as 'tis not possible for words to express; he desired to see them all again, if he surviv'd the night; then they left him, except the person appointed to sit up in his chamber: none of the family went to bed; he lay pretty quiet indeed, from eleven o'clock, at night, till five the next morning, but had no sleep; his eyes were never clos'd till they were clos'd in death. About twelve that night, they thought he would have gone off, and his family being alarm'd came into his room; but in about an hour he grew better, and they retir'd again; this was the last preface, and about twelve o'clock the next night, death finish'd his work.

They kept him by himself till about eight in the morning, in hopes he might sleep, but to no purpose; tho' he was much refresh'd with lying still, and nature seem'd now to summon all its forces at once for the last onset. Those that were with him the day before, with some other of his acquaintance, came about eight; and he being most desirous
to

to see them, they and his family drew altogether about him. He seem'd extremely glad of their company, and told them he thank'd them kindly for it. They ask'd him how he did, and how he rested in the night ; I was never better (said he). I am near my home, this I know to be the way to it ; watch and pray with me, my friends, an hour ; perhaps it may be but an hour, and I shall have no need of friends or prayers : I have had rest to night, but no sleep ; I have been better, much better employ'd ; I have been with my Saviour on the mount ; and my soul's abundantly comforted and refreshed ; my body is dying, but my mind is still vigorous, and alive ; I feel the cold hand of death is actually upon me ; and you may feel it too, if you touch my feet and legs, they are once more clay. Blessed be God, death is no king of terrors to me ; he is a welcome messenger, because sent by my heavenly Father : here I am, O Lord, waiting thy pleasure ; ready to obey the summons ; thy will, O Lord, be done ; blessed be God, that the attack is made below ; my head is, as yet, very clear and untouch'd ; and 'till my heart feels the damp, I hope to be engag'd in work suitable to a death-bed ; it is not to me a bed of languishing and wasting ; this poor remains of a body is hardly capable of any greater decay, 'till it moulders in the grave ; and there let it moulder. Who would not part with it as it is ?

is? 'tis now my burthen, my bar to happiness, an hindrance to a lively spiritual communion with my God; but, O! my friends, 'tis united to Christ, and shall therefore one day become a glorious body; this corruption shall put on incorruption, and shall be forever with the Lord.

Here he called for a little cordial, to fortify his heart (he said) and keep it warm, to finish if he could, what he had further to say: his youngest daughter carried it to him; the tears instantly ran down her cheeks, which she endeavour'd to conceal from him; but he perceiv'd her concern: he ask'd for her brother and sister, who were in the same condition with herself, and had therefore sat in a part of the room the curtain kept from his sight; he threw his cold arms about them, and kiss'd and embraced each, with the tenderness indeed of a dying parent. My dear children, (said he) I find 'tis you want the comforting, but how can your father now give it? the very attempt adds to your grief, and my words force a flood of tears from you. O! you were most dear to me, and are so still, since the death of your dear mother, whom I am now going to meet; I have known no worldly blessing equal to you; you have always been most dutiful and most affectionate: God will reward your conduct to your father, and make up

up your loss; but your sorrow, my children, for what you loose, should not be so great, as your rejoicing for what I gain: I am going to God, to be ever with the blessed Jesus; and can now even part with you for such a change of company; O! hold on your course, and this happy lot will one day be yours, as 'tis now mine. I hope you'll have cause to bless God, that you saw your father die; I shall shew you what it is to die well: O! let the intention of all your actions be the glory of God, and your whole lives one continued preparation for death; and then you need never fear a death-bed: you'll have peace in your latter end, and be able to joy in an hour of death, and rejoice in the day of judgment.

The minister being willing to be witness to the behaviour of this extraordinary man, as much as possible, came in about this time, being near nine o'clock; as soon as he came to the bed-side, with much pleasure in his countenance, he shook him by the hand, and said, my good friend, I am glad to see you once more; the happy day is at length come that will be my last, and I hope my best: this is the day of days, the day of God, we will still rejoice, and be glad in it; perhaps more so than ever we have before. This day of my Lord has been ever my delight, the joy of my soul; O! what happy

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communion

constitution have I had with you; my friends, and others of God's people, in his house, in his ordinances, on these days; some of my companions at his table, have got the start of me; they are at home, have received their welcome, and are now drinking the new wine in their father's kingdom: But he is my father as well as theirs; I shall soon be with them; and as together we have had fellowship with him at his foot-stool here, so there we shall together glorify and praise him for ever and ever. I always esteem'd it as one of the greatest blessings that attended the plentiful circumstances it pleased God to bestow upon me in life, that I, and my family, were at liberty, without incumbrance or interruption, to attend the publick worship of God, and spend the sabbath our own way, without being engag'd on it, in either the business or pleasures of the world.

O! my friends, I have but this day to live, I plainly find; and I hope I have but this day's work to do: I am now to die; I am not now, (adored be God) to prepare for death; my accounts of each day have been each day settled; and my immense debt has been forgiven me: I am now waiting for the glorious discoveries of an invisible world; and thanks be to God my Redeemer, I am not afraid to enter upon them. He then immediately went on as follows:

Holy,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of sabbath;
 thou art the God of the spirits of all flesh;
 thou art the portion of my soul, and shalt be
 so for ever; by thy Almighty power, I am
 once more brought to the beginning of thy
 own day, the last. I am ever like to enjoy
 upon earth; make it to me, O Lord, for
 my blessed Redeemer's sake, a most happy
 day indeed, the best sabbath that ever I
 experienced; may I have the utmost cause
 to bless God for this day to all eternity;
 finish, my gracious God, thy work of grace
 in my heart; fully prepare me for the ever-
 lasting enjoyment of thyself; compleat my
 repentance towards thee; let me not have a
 sin unpardon'd; may Christ Jesus my Lord
 be made to me, to the utmost, wisdom,
 righteousness, sanctification, and redemption;
 let me know thee, and thy dear Son, so as to
 obtain eternal life; may I love God with
 my whole heart, mind, and strength, with
 that affection which is suitable to the excel-
 lency of the divine nature; O! let me be
 conform'd to the image of Christ, and made
 a partaker of the holiness of God, as much
 as a poor creature is capable thereof: let my
 faith and love be in the highest exercise this
 day: let not the approaches of death be
 able to shock the one, or abate the other: O!
 let every power and faculty of my soul be
 employ'd with their utmost efficacy to the

last, in blessing and praising of thee my God, and in declaring my hopes in thee, my desires towards thee, and what thou hast hitherto done for my soul: O! may this sabbath be in reality, not only to us here present, but to all thy people upon earth a blessed earnest of, and a full preparation for, an everlasting sabbath of rest with God above: hear for Jesus Christ's sake, and when thou hearest, O Lord! forgive; and upon his account do for us, and for all thine, according to thy infinite unbounded love in a dear Redeemer; according to what Christ has merited by his most precious blood, and we want; according to what we have now, or in the whole course of life, asked in his name, as far as it may be for thy glory, and suitable to our circumstances; and to the glorious Creator of heaven and earth, may there now, and for ever, be ascribed all honour, glory, and power, might, majesty, and dominion, Amen and Amen.

Soon after he had done, he desired the minister to pray with him, and to read the fifteenth chapter of the first of the Corinthians, which he accordingly did: the only petitions he directed him to put up for him, were, that God might be glorified to the utmost in him, and by him; that his inward peace might continue; that his spiritual joy might increase, and that he

he might have a glorious, triumphant entrance into the joy of his Lord: during the time of this prayer, which was most admirably adapted to the desire of our friend, he was just like a man in an extasy; his heaven indeed was now begun; and he seem'd from this instant to have his inward satisfaction growing greater and greater, till at last he was made perfect in happiness.

The minister now took his leave, being oblig'd to perform the duties of his function in the congregation; they parted as if they had not been so have met here again; and a great many good and affectionate things pass'd on either side; tho' he did live till the minister return'd; but though he knew him, as appeared by the signs he made, he was past speaking a word to him; the rest of the company staid to the last: they now at his request went to breakfast, and he lay quiet all the time, which was about half an hour; soon after they had done he said to them:

My dear friends, I find my strength much impair'd since yesterday; but sure I am a wonderful monument of God's mercy; I am a dying man, and have no pain, either in body, or mind: O! why should not the terrors of the Almighty
now

new fall upon me, and distract my soul?
 I have been a most criminal creature, by
 nature vile, and by actual transgressions
 much more abominable; why am I not
 now an object of God's indignation, and
 terror to you and myself? O! why is not
 my mind full of horror? why am I not
 under the dreadful apprehensions of the
 severest weights of God's wrath? O! my
 beloved, that this is not my case, is whol-
 ly owing to the rich free grace of God
 for the sake of Christ, and not to any
 desert of mine: was I to have no other
 comfort now, but what my past services
 have merited, what a miserable condition
 should I be in! the duties I have engaged
 in, have been many: 'tis true, very many,
 but how unworthily have they been per-
 form'd? how often have I worshipp'd God
 without faith or hope in due exercise,
 without a sincere sorrow for sin, without
 unfeign'd love for God, or delight in his
 ways; without holy desires towards him?
 How often have I pretended to praise and
 bless him, when my heart and my af-
 fections have been unmov'd, and I have
 been dull, careless, and thoughtless in the
 service of my God? How have I added
 to my guilt, when I made a shew of de-
 precating thy wrath, O Lord! and implor-
 ing thy pardon for past offences? and
 how have my thoughts of God, and my
 expressi-

expressions in duty to him, been infinitely short of the perfections of the divine majesty? O! how great and innumerable have been my sins and miscarriages? How many and gross my backslidings from my God? O! the thoughts of these things might overwhelm me, and would do so, had I not the righteousness of Christ to plead; that's more than a ballance to all, that either my own heart, or even the justice of God, can charge me with; here my hope is only fix'd; in Christ I am safe; and in him alone; on his merit I have ventur'd thro' time, and have not been disappointed; on his merit I can venture upon an eternity, without any fear of miscarrying. I now again, as I have before, discard all that I have done; nothing can avail or stand me in any stead before God, but the merit of my dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; I expect to be freely justify'd for the sake of Christ alone; to be openly acquitted of the debt I owe to God, because Christ Jesus has paid it: upon this I venture my soul; O! let me have but what Christ has purchas'd for me, I am satisfied, and shall be evermore satisfied; 'tis all I can want, or my soul be able to enjoy to all eternity.

After this his discourse was much interrupted, he began to falter in his speech, and he wanted strength to express the earnestness of his soul: he was continually crying out, as he

he was able, to those about him; O! the riches of God's free grace in Christ! inestimable is the love of God, O! his wondrous goodness to a most worthless worm! O! what returns can I make for all this profusion of mercy, my dear friends, bless God with me, and for me: blessed be the Lord for ever, blessed be God my Saviour; O! I love God, I find I love him now indeed with my whole heart; O! he is dearer to me than life, than breath, than all things: I have not a desire but what is altogether towards him; I long to be with God and Christ; O! when shall I appear before God: he is my God, the portion of my soul, my only felicity and happiness, my delight, my utmost wish, my all: O! none but Christ, none but Christ: he paus'd almost between each of the last above-mention'd expressions; tho' to preserve the connection we have thought proper to insert them together,

About a quarter of an hour after this, he said to them, My brethren, is not this very amazing to you? when I contemplate the holiness of God, I can't but cry out that I myself am vile; most vile; and then when I consider the justice of God; could any one imagine but that I should be struck with most dreadful apprehensions of approaching judgment, and deserved wrath? instead of that, I am under no fear of the latter, and
much

much desire the former; I long to appear before this glorious, this holy, this just God: I have a righteousness to plead that is perfect: the holy Jesus is my security; and I cannot be disappointed; in Christ the justice of God is as much my security, as his mercy: here's a holiness that transcends that of all the angelick host; there is no charging my Redeemer with possible folly: O! I know I am pardon'd for the sake of Jesus Christ my only Lord and Mediator; I am sure of it; I am fully, freely pardon'd: I shall soon be thoroughly sanctified, and compleatly fitted for glory: O! I want words to express my gratitude, to tell my joy; adored be God, my Lord, my Saviour: this is the work of God alone: O! unfathomable love! infinite condescension! unmerited, unbounded grace to a vile offender! I deserve hell; I enjoy heaven.

Here, at his request, one read the eighth chapter to the Romans; and to almost every verse, he would say something suitable to the contents of it; 'twas now about one o'clock: his legs were quite cold as high as his knees, and his fingers and hands were little better: he desired his children to come near him once more, and take their last leave; for he was apprehensive he should not be able to speak much longer: he kiss'd and embrac'd them as before, but told them, that should

be indeed the last time, for he was afraid his breath might be offensive to them : they were very much moved at this ; assured him of the contrary ; and many tenderneſſes paſt after, even when he could not ſpeak at all, to convince him, that nothing of that nature, from a dying father, could be diſtaſteful to them.

The laſt words he directed to them alone, were : My deareſt children, may you be bleſſed living and dying : let your dependance be ever rightly placed on God, and you'll always experience the happineſs of it to ſoul and body : let your ſubmiſſion to God's providencies be always intire, and chearful ; ſtudy diligently God's revealed will, and at all times ſincerely endeavour to perform it : live ſuitable to your engagements to him : be conſtant in your communion with his church : may your time be much ſpent in prayer to God, in praizing of him, in the delightful contemplation of his divine perfections, his works of creation, redemption, and providence ; in ſelf-examination, and in converſation with his people ; may the glory of God, and the good of his church, be the conſtant diſinterreſted deſire of your hearts, and the utmoſt endeavour of your lives : may you be kept from all defections from the great God ; may every grace of his holy ſpirit be implanted in your ſouls ; may every grace be in daily and due exerciſe ; may God never
leave

leave you, nor forsake you; may you grow every instant more meet to be partakers of the inheritance with the saints in light: may you increase with all the increase of God, and be found to glory and praise at the coming of Christ Jesus; thro' whose righteousness, in which alone you can be accepted, may you be presented blameless without spot, at the bar of God; and be your parents crown of rejoycing in the great day.

These things were spoken with a very low voice, and much interruption, tho' in a surprising manner, considering how much he had falter'd in his speech before.

One ask'd him, if he still thought as he had said in the morning, that this would be his last day: O! yes! (he said) yes! yes! on this blessed, this happy day, my dear Lord arose from the dead, and finish'd the great work of man's redemption; and he will this day, I doubt not, compleat his goodness towards me; this day I shall be with him in paradise; I shall get rid of this clog, this poor, wither'd, worn-out carcass; and be all life, all spirit, in the presence of my blessed Lord and Master.

O blessed be God, my dearest Lord, for the assistance I have had; for the mercies,
F 2 the

the happinesses, I may say, of a death-bed:
O! my speech will go, I find, before me.

O Lord, I am waiting for thy salvation.

Lord Jesus receive my departing spirit.

To thee my God and Saviour, I commit
and commend my soul; 'tis thine; thou hast
redeemed it.

O! my friends, Christ is my guide; I am
going to enter into the dark valley of the
shadow of death, and know not one step of
the way; yet I shall not take one wrong
step: all the powers of darkness shall not,
tho' they are now exerting their utmost
force, be able to hurt me; my soul is the
charge of angels, and the Almighty God is
my shield and defence.

O! call me not a poor creature; pity me
not as a dying man: I am happy; I am all
joy; I have enough to dissolve my very being;
I have more than my heart can hold: O!
God is reconcil'd; he is all love; he is un-
changeably, everlastingly, mine, and I shall
be happy in my God for ever: O! here is
heaven; here is joy unutterable.

O! come and take me to thyself, blessed
Jesus.

O! how

O! how I long for God; how my soul desires him.

O! for a sight of Christ in glory; to be satisfied with his likeness.

O! for the bosom of eternal mercy: bless God for me, my friends, and praise him; and may angels, and the blessed spirits above, take the song of praise from your lips, and carry it up before the throne to God, and to the Lamb, in a more exalted glorious manner than you are capable of: O! I shall soon make one of their blessed society.

The Lord bless you, my dear children, and friends; pray, pray for me, my speech is just gone; I can scarce speak at all. After this, no body could be assured what he said, so that those broken sentences are all omitted.

The reader may please to take notice, that he was about two hours uttering those expressions inserted after what he said to his children; and that he hardly spoke two sentences together, tho' the transcriber has plac'd them together: it was now about five o'clock, and the minister came again to see him; he was not able to speak a word to him, having been speechless above an hour; however he was sensible who he was, and held up both
his

his hands, in token, as it was understood, of his desire the minister should go to prayer, which was accordingly done; and he cast up his hands and eyes several times, as if duly sensible of, and affected with, what was said: after this he lay very still for a long time, and the company were for leaving him, thinking he might fall asleep; but about ten o'clock they found he was just expiring; when going round his bed, he opened his eyes and moved his hand towards his son who was next him; his son took hold of it, and he found his father press'd his hand; after which, he made the same motion to them all, by which they concluded he was sensible. About half an hour after eleven his last moment came; he resign'd his soul without a sigh, without a groan, and sweetly fell asleep in Jesus: he died with a smile upon his lips, which seem'd indeed to be settled in his countenance from the instant he became speechless, which was look'd upon as an evidence of his inward tranquility, and an indication of that peace his happy soul is now in full possession of. O! blessed, blessed indeed is the death of the righteous! there is no latter end like theirs.

F I N I S.



